

**WASHINGTON** – In the wake of reports that indicate security lapses at the nation's largest airports including O'Hare, Congressman Kirk called for a Security Summit at O'Hare with Homeland Security and Transportation officials to schedule retraining, establish higher standards and upgrade accountability for security at the nation's busiest airport.

According to a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) report, 60 percent of bomb materials and explosives hidden in carry-on items by undercover TSA agents were missed by screeners at O'Hare. At Los Angeles International Airport, screeners missed 75 percent of bomb materials. At San Francisco International Airport, a private screening company missed 20 percent of bomb materials.

"Following the tragedy of September 11, Congress established a new security service – the Transportation Security Agency – backed by 60,000 new screeners. Their mission is to protect 75 million flyers at O'Hare and millions around the country," Congressman Kirk said. "This report shows that there are problems that must be addressed immediately by the Secretary of Homeland Security, Secretary of Transportation and TSA officials at O'Hare."

"I worry that a TSA screener working for the federal government at O'Hare misses more threats than the private screening company protecting San Francisco. Today, I am calling on the Departments of Homeland Security and Transportation to call a Security Summit to correct these security lapses. Our safety and economy depend on a safe and efficient O'Hare."